

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01754 110907Z

14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

DRC-01 AF-10 /153 W

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R 101644Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2512

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS BERLIN 1754

E.O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ,WB, XF

SUBJECT: WEST BERLIN REACTION TO MIDEAST CONFLICT

1. SUMMARY: WEST BERLIN POLITICAL LEADERS AND PRESS HAVE UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED ISRAEL IN CURRENT MIDEAST CONFLICT. PROG-ARAB DEMONSTRATIONS ORGANIZED BY KPD HAVE BEEN SPARSELY ATTENDED. END SUMMARY.

2. AT MEETING IN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN WEST BERLIN OCTOBER 8, GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT SICKERT, CDU CHAIRMAN LORENZ AND FDP CHAIRMAN LUEDER UNHESITATINGLY EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAELI CAUSE IN CURRENT CONFLICT. TO STORMY APPLAUSE, SCHUETZ REPORTED ON CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH MAYOR KOLLEK OF JERUSALEM, IN WHICH LATTER EXPRESSED THANKS FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY OF BERLINERS. RECALLING SPECIAL HISTORICAL REASONS FOR GERMAN CONCERN FOR FATE OF ISRAEL, GOVERNING MAYOR
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 01754 110907Z

SAID THAT IT WAS INTOLERABLE THAT EXISTENCE OF ISRAELI

STATE SHOULD STILL BE QUESTIONED. HE CALLED FOR UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, AND ADMONISHED GREAT POWERS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITIES IN MIDDLE EAST SERIOUSLY AND NOT TO BE CONTENT WITH PASSING RESOLUTIONS IN UN. LUEDER EMPHASIZED PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY OF GERMANS TOWARDS JEWISH PEOPLE, AND SAID THAT NONE COULD BE SILENT WHEN ISRAEL WAS IN TROUBLE. LORENZ, AFTER EMOTIONAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI CAUSE, STRESSED NEED FOR NEGOTIATED SOLUTION AND CALLED UPON GREAT POWERS TO INTERVENE TO STOP FIGHTING. SICKERT STRESSED THAT ARAB LEADERS MUST BE MADE TO RECOGNIZE THAT WAR IS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE MEANS OF POLITICS.

3. ON OCTOBER 9, ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION IN BONN EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT SCHUETZ HAD TAKEN PART IN MEETING OF SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL, THEREBY, IT CLAIMED, VIOLATING NEUTRALITY OF FRG IN MIDEAST QUESTION. GOVERNING MAYOR SWIFTLY REJECTED THIS CRITICISM, STATING THAT HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO SPEAKING UP AGAINST EVERY AGGRESSION.

4. WEST BERLIN PRESS HAS UNANIMOUSLY BRANDED EGYPT AND SYRAI AS THE AGGRESSORS, AND HAS GENERALLY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN ISRAELI VICTORY. SPRINGER PAPERS (BERLINER MORGENPOST, BZ, AND BILDZEITUNG) HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY EFFUSIVE IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. PRO-SPD SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT SIAD THAT IT WAS MATTER OF COURSE THAT SYMPATHIES OF GERMANS LAY ON ISRAELI SIDE, AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT MAJORITY OF GDR POPULATION FELT SAME WAY DESPITE OFFICIAL PROPAGANDA TO CONTRARY.

5. TWO PROG-ARAB DEMONSTRATIONS ORGANIZED BY KPD ON OCTOBER 8 AND 9 ATTRACTED ONLY 300 AND 900 PARTICIPANTS RESPECTIVELY. KLEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, WAR, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BERLIN01754
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731042/aaaabeqr.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <07-Sep-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEST BERLIN REACTION TO MIDEAST CONFLICT
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005